



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

### THE DISCOVERIES IN CRETE

The ever growing list of publications bearing on the work of archaeologists in Crete testifies to the active popular interest in that picturesque subject. The excavators, without exception, have issued in scientific journals frequent reports of the results of their work, in considerable detail and with commendable regularity. Based upon these reports popular articles have been published from time to time in many lands, which led, naturally, in the proportion of the increase of the material, to the publication of handbooks, including, as well as the description of the discoveries, discussions of some of the countless problems arising therefrom. Furthermore, special studies of particular topics have been issued as monographs, and, lastly and most recently, there has appeared the publication in final form of the results of excavation at one Cretan site.

Mrs. Harriet Boyd Hawes receives the credit of being the first of the Cretan excavators to issue the results of her work in final form. In 1901, 1903 and 1904 she conducted excavations at Gournia and certain other sites in the eastern part of the island; in November, 1908, her final publication was issued. This includes, first of all, twenty-five plates, of which eleven are colored, being admirably reproduced from water-color drawings to show accurately all varieties of pottery found on this site. Included among these plates is one which gives a superb representation of the peculiar mottled red and black ware found at Vasiliki, near Gournia, where excavations were conducted in 1906 by the American explorer, Mr. Seager, who published his results in the *Transactions of the Free Museum of Science and Art, University of Pennsylvania* (1907), 2, p. 111. The Gournia publication contains also twelve plates with pen-and-ink drawings made from photographs showing household objects, domestic utensils, stone and clay tools, bronze tools and weapons, stone vases, pottery and cult objects; in all, no less than 538 separate finds are shown in these illustrations. There is besides a plate to give the ground plan of the town, and still another containing three views of the site reproduced from photographs. Apart from the descriptions of the plates and a number of appendices by different collaborators, the book contains three introductory chapters by the author on the outline of Minoan civilization, Minoans and Mycenaeans, and the Homeric problems in the light of Cretan discoveries. The reader is reminded of the excavations in Crete made by English, Italian and American scholars, and of the progress of Cretan civilization as indicated by those investigations. As is true of almost all writers on Crete, Dr. Evans's scheme of classification is employed by which the entire civiliza-

tion is divided into three main periods, Early Minoan (before 3000 B. C.), Middle Minoan (3000-1800), Late Minoan (1800-1100), each of which in turn is subdivided into three parts. The town of Gournia falls in the first Late Minoan period, about 1700-1500, though many objects were found from much earlier times. In the matter of the identity of the Cretans and the relationship between Crete and Homer, our knowledge is as yet too fragmentary to warrant the deduction of any safe conclusions. In fact, a sound warning on the subject of assumed relationships among early civilizations, Aegean and European, is uttered by Messrs. Peet, Wace and Thompson in *The Classical Review*, December, 1908.

Apart from Mrs. Hawes's book, the most ambitious work that has yet appeared on Crete, three handbooks on the subject have been published recently, by an Italian, Dr. Mosso, in 1907 (see *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY*, I. 228), by an Englishman, Professor Burrows, in 1907 (*The Discoveries in Crete*), by a Frenchman, Père Lagrange, in 1908 (*La Crète Ancienne*). As these books deal with the same material, they duplicate one another to a certain extent, yet each author selects for emphasis a different phase of the subject. So Dr. Mosso is carried away by the picturesqueness of the scenery and the imaginative appeal of the discoveries, Professor Burrows devotes his work almost entirely to a scholarly discussion of the subjects of Minoan chronology, and of the racial identity of the people, Père Lagrange, as is eminently proper for a frère precheur, gives up more than a third of his book to a presentation of the religion of the Minoans, describing the cult places, sacrifices, representations and forms of deities, sacred symbols, and the worship of the dead. He also discusses the origin of the people, and is inclined to place it in the South as Mosso does without reserve, whereas Burrows rather favors the North. The works by Dr. Mosso and Père Lagrange are profusely and admirably illustrated, that of Professor Burrows shows in reproduction but three objects and three plans.

While these handbooks have been in process of publication excavations in the island have been attended with remarkable success. In a letter to *The London Times* for July 15, 1907, Dr. Evans outlines the work accomplished at Knosos by the campaign of that spring. Besides many less important discoveries an extensive addition to the palace was found on the south and southwest, which, it is estimated, will upon excavation add 3000 square yards to the ground plan of the palace. Furthermore, on the south again the excavators sunk a shaft 25 feet deep into a huge beehive chamber, belonging to the Early Minoan period,

without reaching the bottom. Again in *The London Times* (August 27, 1908) Dr. Evans reviews the next campaign (1908). Work was continued on the southern quarter of the palace, which resulted in the discovery of a great number of bronze objects and some silver vases. The bottom of the beehive chamber was reached at a depth of 52 feet, but on account of danger from the loose filling, exploration was impossible; it is hoped that this aim will be achieved during the season of 1909. An extensive area was also uncovered in the little palace, which, it will be remembered, was found in 1905 beyond the modern highway west of the main palace, and considerable attention was paid to the study and restoration of various portions of buildings already excavated. Dr. Evans further discovered in the southern part of the palace a rich deposit of pottery belonging to the Early Minoan period, in connection with which he refers to the important work accomplished last spring by Mr. Seager.

Mr. Seager's excavations were made in the name of the American School at Athens on the island of Mochlos, which lies but a short distance from Gournia. His results will be published shortly in the *American Journal of Archaeology*, but anticipating such publication we are so fortunate as to have an article with illustrations on the subject in *The Independent* (January 21, 1909) written by Miss E. H. Hall, one of the collaborators with Mrs. Hawes at Gournia, and there is a brief statement of the same discoveries made on the basis of Mr. Seager's notes by Mr. Dawkins in his review of archaeology in Greece, *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 28, 326 f. On the island of Mochlos Mr. Seager discovered a small town and cemetery. He opened many small graves and, in particular, six large burial chambers, which were found to contain many gold objects such as chains, leaves, flowers, diadems and other ornaments which, together with a series of stone vases, of alabaster, limestone, steatite and marble, dating from before 2500 B. C., give an astounding revelation of the degree of artistic skill achieved by the Minoan people at such a remote period. Mr. Seager also found at Mochlos a gold signet ring which Dr. Evans considers of great importance in connection with the study of Minoan religion, as it represents the arrival in Crete of the Minoan goddess borne in a boat with a dog's head prow (*Hellenic Herald*, Sept., 1908).

Still another site explored by Mr. Seager is on the island of Pseira, also in the immediate vicinity of Gournia. Excavation here brought to light in 1907 a small town in which 150 rooms were cleared, yielding many clay and stone vases and some terracottas. Vases were found, too, in a large number of graves, and from the testimony of the pottery,

the date of the settlement is put in the Early Minoan period.

Other work in Crete during last season was accomplished by the Ephor of antiquities, Dr. Xanthoudides, who has proved that the region around Koumāsa was thickly occupied in Early Minoan times by a homogeneous population, as within a radius of three miles he found seven settlements more or less similar in character. The Italian Mission, too, continued its excellent work at Phaistos under the direction of Dr. Pernier, and, besides many other objects, brought to light the most remarkable discovery of the year. In the northeastern part of the palace was found a terra-cotta disc, about 6¼ inches in diameter, covered on both sides with hieroglyphic symbols including figures of men, fish, birds, trees and plants, which are not drawn or engraved, but are stamped or printed from type. This document consists of about 250 symbols, and is unique among Cretan discoveries (*Jour. Hell. Stud.* above and *Hell. Her.*, Dec., 1908).

While the excavators are thus busy with the task of providing new material for the study of Cretan problems, some of those very problems have already been attacked by attentive scholars. The troublesome question of the Minoan religion, the study of which was begun by Dr. Evans in his *Mycenaean Tree and Pillar Cult* as early as 1901, and continued from time to time since as new discoveries at Knosos contributed new light, has also been discussed briefly by Mrs. Williams in the Gournia work in connection with an important shrine located in that town. Mention has been made of the large space devoted to it by Lagrange in his handbook, and now we have a special monograph on the subject by Dr. Wolf Aly entitled *Der Kretische Apollonkult: Vorstudie zu einer Analyse der kretischen Götterkulte* (Leipzig, 1908).

Cretan pottery, too, has recently formed the basis of a special study. Miss Hall published in 1907 a dissertation on the decorative art of Crete in the bronze age, in which she establishes and illustrates the type of decoration of pottery that is characteristic of each period provided by Dr. Evans's chronology. The most significant fact that is emphasized by this work is that there is continuity of development in decorative art from the beginning to the end of the Minoan civilization. From the stone age, with its limited repertory of incised dots and dashes, there is a gradual but steady growth, through the recognition of the fact that combinations of lines and curves produce imitations of natural objects, to the great bloom of naturalism that reaches its height in the third Middle Minoan period. Dr. Evans calls this epoch the high-water-mark of Minoan civilization, and states that its art attains a naturalism never again achieved in the ancient

world. This bloom is followed by the inevitable period of decadence until finally natural objects become so conventionalized as to be resolved again into the original lines and curves.

The phenomenon of continuity in Minoan culture, however, has been presented most cogently and convincingly by Dr. Mackenzie in a series of masterly articles that have appeared in the *Annual of the British School at Athens*. In the third instalment of those articles, published in the most recent volume of that *Journal* (13. 423 f.), the author sets forth clearly the sequence of racial occupations of ancient Crete. In the early times subsequent to the stone age one race was predominant throughout the Aegean basin. How far the influence of this race extended is not known, but that its range included Sicily and Southern Italy is a thesis ably maintained by Mr. T. E. Peet in the same volume of the *British School Annual* (p. 405 f.). The elements of the civilization current in the islands of the Aegean and on the mainland of Greece at Mycenae, Tiryns and elsewhere were largely similar, and as the people were related in race as well as in customs, upon the continuous incursion of foreigners from the north, those of the mainland migrated to their relatives farther south. In Crete this movement encountered violent opposition with the result that the great palaces of the island empire were destroyed at the close of the second Late Minoan period, about 1600 B. C. But in the succeeding epoch occurs no break in the continuity of the culture. It is not until the end of the Late Minoan age that a sudden change in the civilization attests the presence of foreign elements, namely, the Achaean invaders from the north, who later were followed by the Dorians and the geometric period of art.

Attempts to explain various mythological traditions in the light of the discoveries in Crete are familiar, but mention should be made of an ingenious suggestion in this line presented in a recent letter to *The London Times* (Feb. 19, 1909). The correspondent of *The Times* seeks to prove that Minoan Crete is the lost island Atlantis of Hellenic tradition, by showing that the general outlines of the geography and history of Atlantis, as sketched by Plato in the *Timaeus* and *Critias*, are in agreement at many points with the site of the island, with the rise and eclipse of Cretan hegemony. As the editor of *The Times* points out in the same issue there may possibly be a germ of truth in the suggested comparison, but it is far more probable that Plato is giving free rein to his imagination.

Thus in multifarious forms have the discoveries in Crete illuminated the secrets of the ages and gripped the imagination of men, so that it is fair to believe that the light shed by past work in the

island will be outshone only by what future excavation and study will produce. T. LESLIE SHEAR

BARNARD COLLEGE

### THE GROVE OF FURRINA ON THE JANICULUM

Below and east of the church of S. Pietro in Montorio, on the brow of the Janiculum just above Trastevere, and overlooking Rome and the Campagna toward the Alban Hills, is the beautiful Villa Sciarra, now the property of an American, Mr. George Wurts. In the summer of 1906 Mr. Wurts began to build a garden house in his villa property, but his plan had to be given up because, while excavations were being made for the foundations of his building, archaeological finds came to light which, in the naive words of the Roman newspaper correspondent, "shook to their foundations the archaeological and scientific world, and the Italian government".

Every day, in Rome, some chance excavation for a new sewer or for a house foundation lays bare remains which tell of the long since buried Rome, and which in many instances corroborate or disprove what literature has given us of history or tradition. It is therefore with great interest that news of this new find across the Tiber has been received, because the inscriptions found make mention of deities hitherto unknown in Rome<sup>1</sup>, because a place of worship of Syrian gods at Rome is located and additional knowledge has been gained concerning their cult, and more especially because the location of the grove and shrine of the nymph Furrina is now made certain. Besides, the hitherto disputed position of the Pons Sublicius now seems to be settled, and the tragic interest in the flight and death of the younger of the Gracchi is heightened by the localization of the event which lost to the plebeians their young and beloved champion.

The earlier finds have been well published by Professors Huelsen and Gauckler. First is a beautifully sculptured altar of white marble, about three feet high, bearing an inscription in Greek. In the wealth of sculptured detail, there are three most

<sup>1</sup>In *La Tribuna* of Feb. 12, Jean Carrère gives a brief account of the new excavations, but forgets to give any credit to Signor Dante Vaglieri, to whom almost as much credit is due as to M. Gauckler. It was Professor Vaglieri who gave the official account of the discoveries in *Not. d. Scavi*, July, 1908, pp. 262-263. *Il Giornale d'Italia* of Feb. 10 also has an account of the finds and a short resume of the discussion aroused. The early notices of the discoveries are given in full in the first note to the articles by Gauckler and Huelsen. Paul Gauckler, under the title *Le Bois sacré de la nymphe Furrina et le sanctuaire des dieux Syriens au Janicule*, in the *Bulletino Comunale*, 1907, pp. 45-81, completes and enlarges his former article in the *Comptes Rendus de l'Académie des inscriptions*, 1907, pp. 135-158. The authoritative article on the whole subject is by Prof. Dr. Ch. Huelsen in the *Mitteilungen d. k. d. Arch. Inst. (Roem. Abt.)*, 22. (1907) pp. 225-254, under the title *Der Hain der Furrina am Janiculum*. *L'Illustration* of Paris, Feb. 27, 1909, has a short summary of the above articles, with several very good photographs. Plate 1, accompanying M. Gauckler's most recent article, gives a splendid view of the locality of the find in *Mélanges de l'Ecole Française de Rome*, 28 (1908), pp. 283-336.